

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mexican Independence Day Celebration At Old Town San Diego State Historic Park September 15

On Saturday, September 15, from 12 Noon to 4 p.m., Old Town San Diego State Historic Park (SHP) will celebrate Fiestas Patrias – Mexican Independence Day. Old Town San Diego SHP is located on San Diego Avenue and Twiggs Street in San Diego.

The celebration will feature new, dynamic and eclectic performances, including dancers and a puppet show. The event is funded in part by the California Arts Council (CAC) and supported by the statewide “Arts in the Parks” program.

Dancing, music, and rope tricks, authentic to the early Mexican era of San Diego (1821-46), will be featured on the main stage. Boxtales, a unique storytelling theater troupe, will perform “Mitos y Cuentos,” Mayan, Aztec and Mexican folktales with music, masks, and movement. The dance troupe Danza Floricanto will bring the celebration to a close with their Californio dances.

Entertainment at the Estudillo Mexican hacienda will include a chautauqua about a Californio woman landowner. A puppet show telling the story of the raising of the Bear Flag by U.S. settlers in Sonoma will take place at the Mason Street School lawn.

Events also include a grito contest, recalling the historic cry for independence in Mexico on September 16, 1810, and a pepper eating contest on the main stage. Visitors can also enjoy games, such as the Carrera del Gallo, branding, and water relays. A favorite activity is the cascarones decorating station, where participants can make and take home their own decorated blown-out egg filled with birdseed. Historically, a person would break a cascaron on someone’s head at parties to demonstrate their affection.

Directions to Old Town San Diego State Historic Park: From the South: Take 5 North to the Old Town Avenue exit. Turn left on San Diego Avenue and then veer left to Congress Street. Park in the lots to the right on Congress, before Taylor Street. From the East: Take 8 to the Taylor Street exit and go over the freeway bridge by veering left, then turn right on Taylor Street. Turn left on Pacific Highway and then turn left into the trolley parking.

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